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FLOOR DEBATE

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doesn't include those who cross the river that many in here are so concerned about. But it tripled, and when I hear from constituents that government is getting too big and we're spending too much money, what exactly does expanded gambling contribute to that equation? And, certainly, a county should have the prerogative to keep gambling out should it want to do that. Now I would even go further and say that a county should be able to take a vote sooner rather than later so that outside influences don't get their...the camel's nose isn't under the tent and suggesting that taxes are going to go down if gambling is expanded and casinos come to the town square because we're just asking for problems. I mean I have not seen the research that shows that gambling, casino gambling especially, and I think that's important to note that what we're talking about today, we're not talking about pickle cards. We're not even talking about the lottery. We're not talking about horse racing. And I'm glad to hear that horse racing is alive and well at Fonner Park without slot machines. I commend them for that. They have an institution there that they believe in and I do not seek to take away from that. And I appreciate Senator Aguilar's remarks in pointing out that horse racing is alive and well in Fonner Park, and I would assume that's done so without the slot machines at the facility. It certainly must be doing well if they're donating \$10 million to a community center in Grand Island. But I honestly believe that it should be in the constitution that counties should be able to decide for themselves, the voters of the county should be able to decide for themselves whether or not a casino will come and prey on its people, because it's not going to be destination, certainly not destination by those who can afford it the most. I guess there was a...there is a casino up in South Dakota, that I was amazed actually how many people it drew at least from probably a 120-mile radius being a few single wide trailers put together to have several slot machines and poker tables. But let's also point out the fact that I don't see any petition measure or current efforts by the Legislature that would regulate or even seek to allow casual gambling down the street with your neighbors playing poker, and I'm not saying that's a good thing. I'm just saying that that is not what people are going to get by voting to expand gambling in Nebraska. It's very clear that that is the case. But, regardless, it is my hope that this body